

**DRUG
DEMAND
REDUCTION**

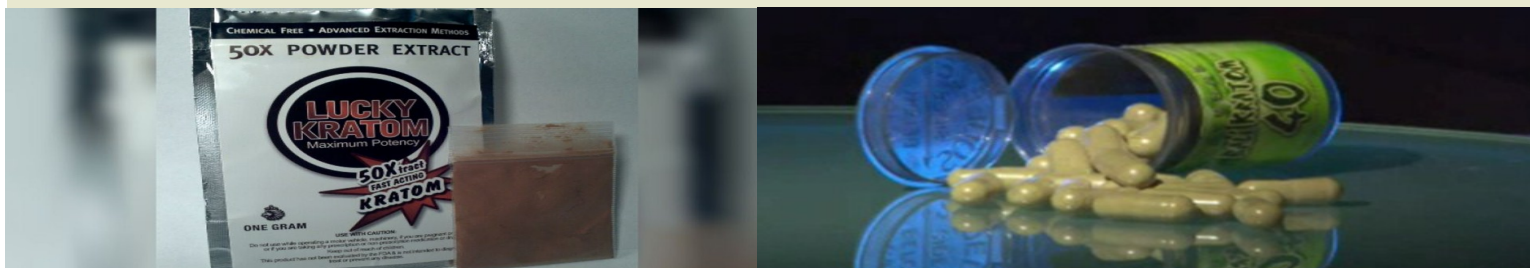
Did You Know?

KRATOM

AUG 14

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Kratom is a tropical tree native to Thailand and other areas of Southeast Asia. Consumption of its leaves produces both stimulant effects (in low doses) and sedative effects (in high doses) and can lead to addiction.



Street Names: Thang, Kakuam, Thom, Katum, Biak

Looks Like: The kratom tree can reach heights of 50 feet with a spread of more than 5 feet. Forms available through the internet include leaves (whole or crushed), powder, extract, encapsulated powder, and resin “pies,” (pellets made from reduced extract).

Methods of Abuse: Kratom is mainly abused orally as a tea. Chewing kratom leaves is another method of abuse.

Affect on Mind: At low doses, kratom produces stimulant effects with users reporting increased alertness, physical energy, talkativeness, and sociable behavior. At high doses, users experience sedative effects. Effects occur within 5 to 10 minutes of ingestion and last for 2 to 5 hours. Kratom consumption can lead to addiction. Several cases of psychosis resulting from use of kratom have been reported, where individuals addicted to kratom exhibited psychotic symptoms, including hallucinations, delusion, and confusion. Withdrawal effects include symptoms of hostility, aggression, mood swings, runny nose, achy muscles and bones, and jerky movements of the limbs. Withdrawal symptoms tend to mirror heroin withdrawals and include chills, aching muscles and gooseflesh.

Affect on Body: Kratom’s effects on the body include nausea, itching, sweating, dry mouth, constipation, increased urination, and loss of appetite. Long-term users of kratom have experienced anorexia, weight loss, insomnia, skin darkening, dry mouth, frequent urination and constipation.

Drugs Causing Similar Effects: The dominant effects of kratom are similar to those of psycho-stimulant drugs.

Overdose effects: Kratom has been abused as a recreational drug around the world, in low doses, Kratom works as a stimulant and in high doses as a sedative. The known risks and dangers of Kratom overdoses include hallucinations, delusions, listlessness, tremors, aggression, constipation and nausea. Users who combine Kratom with nervous system depressants may experience respiratory depression, which may cause them to stop breathing.

Legal Status in the United States: Kratom is not controlled under the Controlled Substances Act. There is no legitimate medical use for Kratom in the United States. Kratom is on the DEA list of Drug of Concern. However, it is controlled in Thailand, Malaysia, and Myanmar (Burma). In 2004, mitragynine and Kratom were both placed in Schedule 9 (the most restrictive level) of the Australian National Drugs and Poisons Schedule.

THE BOTTOM LINE: The use of “Kratom” is a violation of Article 92, UCMJ, IAW AFI 44-120, para 1.1.6., the knowing use of any intoxicating substance that is inhaled, injected, consumed, or introduced into the body in any manner to alter mood or function is prohibited.

Source of Information: DEA